

1 **RASTER DATA COMPRESSION APPARATUS AND METHOD**

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3 ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

4 A plurality of patterns such as solid patterns, edge patterns, half-tone patterns, and
5 verbatim data are losslessly represented in a compressed raster data stream. A pattern
6 selection module selects among the various patterns to provide the best combination of
7 lossless representations according to particular criteria such as storage compactness. A
8 packet formatting module packs multiple pattern identifiers and lossless representations into
9 a packet which may be transmitted compactly. Upon receipt, a packet deformatting module
10 unpacks the pattern identifiers and lossless representations from the packet. After
11 deformatting, a pattern decoding module uses the pattern identifier to activate appropriate
12 pattern generation modules. Each pattern generation module regenerates data according to
13 an indicated pattern to recreate the original raster data.

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